GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1349
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER
P.D. ELANGOVAN;RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have come to know through survey report that the water found in some States is saltish and full of Nitrate and Fluoride;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water in these areas particularly in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from the State/ UnionTerritory Governments, the number of habitations affected by fluoride, salinity, iron, arsenic, nitrate and other reasons in the States and UTs as on 1-4-1999 is enclosed at Annexure.

(c) Supply of drinking water to rural areas is a State subject. The Central Government assists the State Governments by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for coverage of rural habitations with safe drinking water.The States/ UTs can utilize upto 20% of the ARWSP funds for Sub-Mission programmesmeant for tackling quality problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water. The powers to plan, sanction and implement Sub-Mission programmes have been delegated to the State Governments w.e.f. 1.4.1998. The expenditure for implementation of Sub-Mission projects is shared between the Central and the States/ UTs in the ratio of 75:25.